

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
TRSE-00 EB-08 /077 W
-----051859 027562 /40

R 041645Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9229
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 02119

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS:PINT,BE
SUBJECT: TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT REVERTS TO MINORITY STATUS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 2015, (B) BRUSSELS 1848

SUMMARY: RASSEMBLEMENT WALLON (RW)DEPUTIES REFUSED TO SUPPORT
GOVERNMENT IN BUDGET VOTE IN CHAMBER MARCH 3,RESULTING IN DISMISSAL
OF RW MINISTERS AND LOSS OF TINDEMANS GOVERNMENT'S ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.
THIS RAISES POSSIBILITY OF TINDEMANS' RESIGNATION NEXT WEEK AND
CALLING OF ELECTIONS FOR WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE IN VARIED STATES
OF UNPREPAREDNESS..COALITION PARTIES ARE PARTICULARLY DISADVANTAGED
BY CURRENT LABOR UNREST,AND BY TVA TAX INCREASES SHORTLY TO BECOME
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EFFECTIVE.THOUGH SOME INFORMED SOURCES DOUBT THAT TINDEMANS
CAN CONTINUE MINORITY GOVERNMENT FOR MORE THAN A FEW WEEKS,ESTIMATES
OF DATE OF ALL-BUT-INEVITABLE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS RANGE FROM
LATE APRIL TO MID-AUTOMN 1977. END SUMMARY.

1.EFFORT BY CVP PRSIDENT MARTENS TO FIND WAY OUT OF IMPASSE CAUSED
BY RW'S FEBRUARY 26 ULTIMATUM DEMANDING FINAL DECISION ON REGION-

ALIZATION WITHIN THE WEEK (REF A), WAS OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS MARCH 3. MORNING SESSION OF COMMUNITY DIALOGUE MARCH 3 GAVE SOME HOPE OF AGREEMENT ON AT LEAST A PARTIAL SOLUTION ON REGIONALIZATION. BUT THAT AFTERNOON IN THE CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES RW ABSTAINED, AFTER FAILING TO OBTAIN POSTPONEMENT OF A VOTE ON A BUDGET ITEM. PRIME MINISTER, INCENSED OVER THE FAILURE OF A COALITION PARTNER TO SUPPORT GOVERNMENT ON A SERIOUS MATTER, SAID RW SHOULD "DRAW THE RELEVANT CONCLUSIONS" AND CALLED UPON RW'S TWO MINISTERS TO RESIGN. MINISTERS REFUSED. TINDEMANS CALLED ON THE KING LAST NIGHT, AND TODAY THE PALACE ANNOUNCED THE DISMISSAL OF THE TWO RW MINISTERS, MOREAU AND BERTRAND. MEANWHILE, THE FLEMISH NATIONALIST PARTY (VU) ANNOUNCED ITS WITHDRAWAL FROM THE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE, WHICH IS NOW ADJOURNED INDEFINITELY.

2. COMMENT: WITH THE RW OUT OF HIS COALITION, TINDEMANS IS TWO VOTES SHORT OF A WORKING MAJORITY IN THE LOWER HOUSE - 105 OUT OF 212. HE PROBABLY CAN CONTINUE FOR SOME TIME HEADING A MINORITY GOVERNMENT DEPENDENT UPON THE SUPPORT OR SUFFERANCE OF THE VU, THE PL (BRUSSELS LIBERALS), OR THE RW ITSELF. PRIME MINISTER WILL PRESUMABLY INDICATE HIS INTENTIONS IN A SCHEDULED STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT MARCH 8. ALL PARTIES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN UNPREPARED FOR YESTERDAY'S CLASH MAX TO RW'S RUNNING QUARREL WITH ITS COALITION PARTNERS. NONE OF THE MAJOR PARTIES IS READY FOR ELECTIONS - LEAST OF ALL THOSE IN THE GOVERNING COALITION. A WAVE OF STRIKES IS NOW UNDERWAY (REF B) AND UNPOPULAR TVA TAX INCREASES ARE ABOUT TO BITE INTO THE VOTERS' POCKETBOOKS. IF TINDEMANS OPTS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, THEY COULD OCCUR IN LATE APRIL. SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE THIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT YET AMBLE ALONG UNTIL MID-AUTUMN. WHETHER ELECTIONS COME SOON OR LATER, BELGIUM IS IN STORE FOR A PERIOD OF WEAK GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE

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ELECTORATE SPEAKS.
RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770076-1265
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
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TAGS: PINT, BE
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